documents that were sent to them were not traceable, and they have made a similar submission to the Supreme Court of India. The Government of India, as far as I am able to gather, did not keep a copy of what was received by them, and sent the whole thing, in original, to the Government of Assam in September/October, 1979.

SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, since the documents have been lost, and for the last 28 years, the State of Nagaland have been pursuing the Government of India, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Government of Assam to return the documents to the State of Nagaland.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, the Question Hour is over.

————————

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Formulation of land reforms policy

*224. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate National Land Reforms Policy and to set up a National Land Reforms Council to facilitate land reforms in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Land and its management falls within the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the respective States as provided under Entry No. 18 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The role of the Central Government in the field of land reforms is only of an advisory and coordinating nature. However, implementation of Land Reforms Programmes is reviewed from time to time at various fora including Conferences of Revenue Ministers and Revenue Secretaries of the States/UTs organized by the Ministry of Rural Development. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested from time to time for effective implementation of land reform programmes/schemes. The subject matter has, however, been considered at the highest level. In order to get comprehensive recommendations on the matter, it had been decided to constitute the following:—

(i) A "Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms" under the chairmanship of Minister of Rural Development.

(ii) A "National Council for Land Reforms" under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

The composition, terms of reference, *etc.* of the Committee and the Council were notified in the Official Gazette on 9th January, 2008. A copy of the Resolution dated 9th January, 2008 is enclosed: (*see* below) The Committee is to submit its report within one year from the date of its

constitution and the report will be placed before the 'National Council for Land Reforms'. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 19th February, 2008. The Committee, *inter alia*, decided to set up 7 Sub-groups for in-depth review/studies of the components of the Terms of Reference. The second meeting of the Committee was held on 14th May, 2008 and the third meeting, to consider the draft report of the Committee, is to be held on 24th December, 2008. The entire gamut of land reforms is being looked into by the Committee and it is likely to make comprehensive recommendations on the matter. The Council may lay down broad guidelines and policy recommendations on land reforms, based on the recommendations of the Committee. However, it is not possible to indicate specific time line for the purpose.

Closely linked with land reforms is the issue of land records. With a view to develop a modern, comprehensive and transparent land records management system in the country, the Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 21.8.2008 approved merging of the existing two Centrally-sponsored schemes of Computerization of Land Records (CLR) and Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA and ULR) in the shape of the National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP). The NLRMP envisages survey/resurvey of land using modern technology, computerization of land records, digitization of maps, integration of textual and spatial data, computerization of registration and mutation systems, and integration of all these systems with the help of information technology. All the activities under the programme will converge in the district and district will be unit of implementation. The ultimate goal of the NLRMP is to usher in the conclusive titling system with title guarantee, to replace the current presumptive title system in the country. For achieving this goal, the NLRMP is to be implemented in a time-bound manner and all the districts in the country are to be covered by the end of the 12th Plan. The programme has been rolled out with a technical workshop conducted on 24th-25th September, 2008 in New Delhi which was attended by officers from Revenue and Registration Departments of the States/UTs. The States/UTs were requested for submission of Perspective Plan for implementation of the NLRMP and proposals for current year. A Project Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee has been formed which has already sanctioned Rs. 174.19 crore for 13 States/UTs.

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(Department of Land Resources)

RESOLUTION

New Delhi, the 9th January, 2008

Subject: Constitution of the "Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms".

No. 21013/4/2007-LRD.—Good governance in land administration and effective management of agrarian relations are important catalysts for poverty reduction and economic development Socially just access to land, land-related services and security of land rights are of utmost importance in achieving the desired pace and level of economic growth and sustainable development

2. Land reforms can change the current culture of exclusion so that the poor can gain access to land, credit, technology, markets and other productive services, and become active partners in the development of Government policies and programmes affecting their livelihood.

3. With a view to looking into the unfinished task in land reforms, it has been decided to set up a "Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms". The composition of the Committee' will be as under:—

1.	**Minister for Rural Development**	—	**Chairman**
2.	Secretary, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development.	—	Member
3.	Prof. A.K. Singh, Director, Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.	—	Member
4.	Shri B.K. Sinha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Sardar Patel Bhawan, New Delhi.	—	Member
5.	Shri K.B. Saxena, Former Secretary, GoI, Flat No. 158, Ras Vihar Group Housing Society, Plot No. 99, Patparganj, Delhi.	—	Member
6.	Prof. P.K. Jha, School of Economic Sciences and Planning, JNU, New Delhi.	—	Member
7.	Shri R.C. Verma, 321, Guru Jambeshwar Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan.	—	Member
8.	Shri Subhash Lomte, National Campaign Committee for Rural Workers, 125, Samrath Nagar, Aurangabad, Maharashtra.	—	Member
9.	Dr. T. Haque, Chairman, Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.	—	Member
10.	Shri Acharya Ram Murthy, B-173, Police Colony, Anisabad, Patna-02, Bihar.	—	Member
11.	Shri Jagadananda, Member Secretary, Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD), E-I, Institutional Area, Gangadhar Meher Marg, Bhubaneswar-751013, Orissa.	—	Member
12.	Ms. Neelima Khetan, Seva Mandir, Old Fatehpura, Udaipur-313004, Rajasthan	—	Member

13. Shri Ram Dayal Munda, — Member
Village Hatma (Behind Ranchi College),
Morhabadi, Ranchi-834008 Jharkhand.

14 Ms. Sashikala, — Member
President, Dalit Bahujan Sramik Union,
House No.01/4879/87/01, Bakaram Nagar,
Gandhi Nagar, Hyderabad.

15. Shri V.K. Pipersenia, — Member
Pr. Secretary, Revenue Department,
Government of Assam, Dispur-781006.

16. Mrs. Vilasani Ramchandran, — Member
Pr. Secretary, Revenue Department,
Government of Gujarat, Sachivalaya,
Gandhinagar-382010,

17. Shri S.M. Jaamdar, — Member
Pr. Secretary, Revenue Department,
Government of Karnataka, MS Building,
Bangalore-560001.

18. Smt. Neeta Choudhary, — Member
Pr. Secretary, Revenue Department,
Government of Uttar Pradesh, Bapu Bhawan,
Lucknow.

19. Dr. P.K. Agrawal, — Member
Pr. Secretary, Land and Land Reforms Department,
Government of West Bengal, Writers Building,
Kolkata-700001.

20. Additional Secretary, — Member Secretary
Department of Land Resources, Ministry of
Rural Development

4. The terms of reference of the Committee shall be is follows:—

(i) To conduct in-depth review of the land ceiling programme in the country including status of distribution of land declared surplus, continued possession by the rural poor of the allotted land and expeditious disposal of land declared surplus but held up due to litigation and to suggest appropriate and effective strategies in this regard.

(ii) To ensure access of the poor to common property resources, suggest ways for identification, management, development and distribution of Government/wasteland to the landless.

(iii) To review the progress of distribution of Bhoodan land in the States and suggest measures for distribution of the remaining Bhoodan land to the landless.

(iv) To examine the issue of tenancy and subtenancies and suggest measures for recording of all agricultural tenants and a framework to enable cultivators of land to lease in and lease out with suitable assurances for fair rent security of tenure and right to resumption.

(v) To examine the issues relating to alienation of tribal lands including traditional rights of the forest-dependant tribals and to suggest realistic measures including changes required in the relevant laws for restoration of such lands' to them.

(vi) To examine the issue of setting up of fast track courts/mechanism for speedy disposal of land-related litigation cases.

(vii) To look into the land use aspects, particularly the agricultural land, and recommend measures to prevent/minimize conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, consistent with development needs of the country.

(viii) To examine the issues related to homestead rights and recommend measures for providing land for housing to the families without homestead land.

(ix) To suggest measures for modernization of land management with special reference to updating of land records, proper recording of land rights and speedy resolution of conflicts and disputes relating to land.

(x) Suggest institutional mechanisms for effective implementation of land reform programmes.

(xi) To examine measures to provide women greater access to land and other productive assets.

(xii) Any other issue of relevance.

(xiii) Any other Term of Reference that may be decided by the Committee in its first meeting.

5. The Committee may visit the States and hold consultations with them in order to finalize its recommendations.

6. The Committee would make recommendations on the programme of action for effective implementation of land reforms with particular reference to the above matters in consultation with State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

7. The Committee may set up sub-groups/task forces, if necessary, for undertaking in-depth studies on the above components of the Terms of Reference.

8. The Committee may co-opt any other official/non-official/experts/representatives of other agencies.

9. The Committee will submit its final report within one year from the date of its constitution and the report will be placed before the National Council for Land Reforms for its consideration and directions.

10. The expenditure of the official members of the Committee for attending the meetings of the Committee will be borne by the respective parent Department/Ministry/Organisations as per the

rules applicable to them. The expenditure on TA/DA of non-official Members will be borne by the Department of Land Resources according to the appropriate rules and practices.

11. The Committee will be located in and serviced by the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development at New Delhi.

BHASKAR CHATTERJEE, Addl. Secy.

RESOLUTION

New Delhi, the 9th January, 2008

Subject: Constitution of the "National Council for Land Reforms".

No. 21013/4/2007-LRD.-With a view to looking into the unfinished task in land reforms, a "Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms" has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister for Rural Development *vide* Resolution of even number dated 9th January, 2008.

2. To lay down broad guidelines and policy recommendations on agrarian relations and land reforms, based on the recommendations of the "Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms" or otherwise, it has been decided to constitute a "National Council for Land Reforms" under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The composition of the Council will be as under:—

Prime Minister	—	**Chairman**
(A) Government of India Ministers		
(i) Minister for Rural Development	—	Member
(ii) Minister for Agriculture	—	Member
(iii) Minister for Environment and forests	—	Member
(iv) Minister for Panchayati Raj	—	Member
(v) Minister for Tribal Affairs	—	Member
(vi) Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment	—	Member
(vii) Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission		
(B) Chief Ministers of States		
(i) Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh	—	Member
(ii) Chief Minister, Bihar	—	Member
(iii) Chief Minister, Karnataka	—	Member
(iv) Chief Minister, Kerala	—	Member
(v) Chief Minister, Maharashtra	—	Member
(vi) Chief Minister, Orissa	—	Member
(vii) Chief Minister, Rajasthan	—	Member

(viii)	Chief Minister, Tripura	—	Member
(ix)	Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh	—	Member
(x)	Chief Minister, West Bengal	—	Member

(C) Other Members

(i)	Dr. Bina Agarwal, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University, Delhi.	—	Member
(ii)	Dr. C.H. Hanumantha Rao, 240-B, Road No. 18, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500033.	—	Member
(iii)	Dr. G.K. Chadha, Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, Room No. 249, Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi.	—	Member
(iv)	Shri P.V. Rajgopal, Ekta Parishad, Gandhi Peace Foundation, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi.	—	Member
(v)	Shri S.R. Sankaran, former Secretary, GOI, Flat No. 114, Sapphire Building, Amrita Hills, Punjagutta, Hyderabad-500082.	—	Member
(vi)	Dr. S.S. Johal, 2920, Gurdev Nagar, Ludhiana, Punjab.	—	Member
(vii)	Prof. V.S.Vyas, Chairperson, Institute for Development Studies (IDS), 8B Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur-302004.	—	Member
(viii)	Shri Walter Femades, Indian Social Institute, 10 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.	—	Member
	Seceretary, Department of Land Resources Ministry of Rural Development	—	Member Secretary

3. The Chairman may co-opt any other person as Member of the Council as may be necessary.

4. The expenditure of the official members of the Council for attending its meetings will be borne by the respective parent Department/Ministry/Organisations as per the rules applicable to them. The expenditure on TA/DA of non-official members will be borne by the Department of Land Resources according to the appropriate rules and practices.

BHASKAR CHATTERJEE, Addl. Secy.